



NATIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT – FIRST SESSION – THIRD MEETING

MINUTES

No. 41

Monday 31 August 2020

NP/05/1/11

The Speaker took the Chair at 10:37 a.m.

Prayers were said by the Clerk.

The following Members were:

Present: Hon. Peter Shanel Agovaka
Hon. Chachabule Rebi Amoi
Hon. Ishmael Mali Avui
Hon. Heinz Horst Bodo Dettke
Hon. Douglas Ete
Hon. Titus Mokofi Fika
Hon. Levi Senley Filualea
Hon. Jackson Fiulaua
Hon. Nestor Giro
Hon. Rick Nelson Houenipwela
Hon. Sam Shemuel Iduri
Hon. Dr Tautai Agikimua Kaituu
Hon. Martin Kealoe
Hon. Peter Kenilorea Jnr.
Hon. Frederick Kologeto
Hon. Duddley Kopu
Hon. John Deane Kuku
Hon. Harry Kuma
Hon. Christopher Laore
Hon. Lilly Maefai
Hon. Manasseh Maelanga
Hon. Augustine Auga Maeue
Hon. Samson Maneka
Hon. Jeremiah Manele

Hon. John Maneniaru
Hon. Samuel Manetoali
Hon. William Bradford Marau
Hon. Commins Aston Mewa
Hon. Dickson Mua Panakitasi
Hon. Bartholomew Parapolo
Hon. Danny Philip
Hon. Rexon Annex Ramofafia
Hon. Clezy C. Rore
Hon. Rollen Seleso
Hon. Stanley Festus Sofu
Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare
Hon. Freda Tuki Soriacomua
Hon. Makario Tagini
Hon. Lanelle Olandrea Tanangada
Hon. Silas Kerry Vaqara Tausinga
Hon. Dr Culwick Togamana
Hon. Bradley Tovosia
Hon. Namson Tran
Hon. Anthony Kamutulaka Veke
Hon. Matthew Cooper Wale

Absent: Hon. Derick Rawcliff Manu'ari
Hon. Charles Sigoto

In attendance: Mr John Muria, *Attorney General*

PRESENTATION OF PAPERS AND OF REPORTS

Hon. Douglas Ete, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee presented the following papers:

Report on the 2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020.
(*National Parliament Paper No.13 of 2020*).

STATEMENT OF GOVERNMENT BUSINESS for the week ending Friday 4 September 2020 was announced by the Prime Minister.

MATTERS OF PRIVILEGE

Hon. Manasseh Sogavare, Prime Minister stated facts that related to comments made by the Leader of the Opposition that he deemed to be a breach of parliamentary privileges.

According to Standing Order 25(3) the Speaker was not satisfied that the matter affected the privilege of Parliament. However he stressed that Parliamentary freedom of speech must be used responsibly.

Therefore by virtue of Standing Order 39(2) he asked the Leader of Opposition to withdraw his comments of which the Prime Minister was referring to and to apologize to the House.

The Leader of Opposition withdrew the comments in question and apologized to the House.

The Speaker ruled that the comments made by the Leader of Opposition be expunged from the official records of Parliament.

BILLS

Bills – Committee Stage

The ‘2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020’

The Speaker made a ruling to retract the ruling made by the Deputy Speaker on 12 August 2020, with regards to adjourning the second reading debate of the ‘**2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020**’.

With regards to Standing Order 67 which deals with supplementary appropriation bills, the Speaker was of the opinion that once the motion for the second reading of a supplementary appropriation bill had been proposed it shall stand committed to the Committee of Supply. Therefore proceedings on the ‘**2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020**’ proceeded immediately to the Committee of Supply.

Point of order by the Leader of Opposition who stated that the ‘**2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020**’ should proceed to a second reading debate.

The Speaker quoted Standing Order 38 and said that his ruling was final.

Parliament resolved into a Committee of Supply to consider the ‘**2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020**’.

RECURRENT – CONTINGENCY WARRANTS

Head 270 – Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development - \$954,620

The Committee considered Head 270.

Debate ensued.

Question “*That the sum of \$954,620 for Head 270 stand part of the Schedule*” put and passed.

Head 273 – Ministry of Finance and Treasury - \$4,220,044

The Committee considered Head 273.

Debate ensued.

Question *“That the sum of \$4,220,044 for Head 273 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 283 – Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services - \$5,830,705

The Committee considered Head 283.

Debate ensued.

Question *“That the sum of \$5,830,705 for Head 283 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 295 – Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification - \$1,000,000

The Committee considered Head 295.

Question *“That the sum of \$1,000,000 for Head 295 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Question *“That the sum of \$12,005,369 for the **Total Recurrent Contingency Warrants** stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

RECURRENT – ADVANCE WARRANTS

Head 268 – Solomon Islands Electoral Office - \$10,400,000

Point of order by the Leader of Opposition who stated that the Total Recurrent Advance Warrants represented an excess of the spending limit and he suggested that the proceedings of the Committee be interrupted and Parliament be suspended to consider the legality of the matter.

The Prime Minister and the Attorney General spoke on the matter and proceedings continued.

The Committee considered Head 268.

Question *“That the sum of \$10,400,000 for Head 268 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 272 – Ministry of Education and Human Resources Development - \$15,000,000

The Committee considered Head 272.

Question *“That the sum of \$15,000,000 for Head 272 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 273 – Ministry of Finance and Treasury - \$6,452,811

The Committee considered Head 273.

Debate ensued.

Question *“That the sum of \$6,452,811 for Head 273 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 373 – Ministry of Finance and Treasury - \$4,275,001

The Committee considered Head 373.

Question *“That the sum of \$4,275,001 for Head 373 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 376 – Ministry of Health and Medical Services- \$1,055,515

The Committee considered Head 376.

Debate ensued.

Question *“That the sum of \$1,055,515 for Head 376 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 381 – Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet - \$10,000,000

The Committee considered Head 381.

Debate ensued.

Question *“That the sum of \$10,000,000 for Head 381 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 473 – Ministry of Finance and Treasury - \$37,800,000

The Committee considered Head 473.

Debate ensued.

Question *“That the sum of \$37,800,000 for Head 473 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 479 – National Parliament - \$4,100,000

The Committee considered Head 479.

Question *“That the sum of \$4,100,000 for Head 479 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Head 498 – Ministry of Rural Development - \$105,000,000

The Committee considered Head 498.

Debate ensued.

Question *“That the sum of \$105,000,000 for Head 498 stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

The Committee considered the **Total Recurrent Advance Warrants**.

Debate ensued.

Point of order by the Leader of Opposition who replied to a comment made by the Chairman with regards to proceedings of Parliament sometimes being final and not subjected to any other jurisdiction or courts outside the precincts of Parliament.

The Leader of Opposition stated that, that would be the case unless a bill has purported to do something that would be in breach of the Constitution and that was what their side of the House was alleging and why they objected to that particular component of the bill.

The Chairman reiterated his position and took note of comments from both sides of the House on that particular provision.

Question *“That the sum of \$194,083,327 for the **Total Recurrent Advance Warrants** stand part of the Schedule”* put and passed.

Question *“That the Schedule stand part of the Bill”* put and passed.

CLAUSES OF THE BILL

Clause 1

The Committee considered Clause 1.

Question *“That Clause 1 stand part of the Bill”* put and passed.

Clause 2

The Committee considered Clause 2

Question *“That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill”* put and passed.

Clause 3

The Committee considered Clause 3.

Question *“That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill”* put and passed.

Clause 4

The Committee considered Clause 4.

Question *“That Clause 4 stand part of the Bill”* put and passed.

Consideration of the **‘2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020’** in Committee of Supply concluded and the Committee dissolved.

Parliament Resumed

The Minister for Finance and Treasury, Hon. Harry Kuma reported *“That the ‘2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020’ has passed through the Committee of supply without amendments.*

The **‘2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020’** deemed to be set down for a Third Reading.

Bills – Third Reading

‘2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020’

The Minister for Finance and Treasury moved:

“That the ‘2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020’ be now read a third time and do pass.

Question put and passed.

The Clerk announced the passage of the **‘2019 Supplementary Appropriation Bill 2020’**.

ADJOURNMENT

The Prime Minister moved:

"That Parliament do now adjourn."

Question put and passed.

Parliament adjourned at 12:40 p.m. until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday 1 September 2020.

Confirmed

Hon. Patteson John Oti
Speaker of National Parliament

31 August 2020